

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

*Media Office  
Democratic Caucus  
John Schorg, Director  
Statehouse, Room 157  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621  
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

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### **STATE REP. JIM BOTTORFF DIES FROM CANCER; LAWMAKER HAD SERVED 71<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT SINCE 1990**

INDIANAPOLIS – James L. Bottorff of Jeffersonville, 61, who had represented the 71<sup>st</sup> District in the Indiana House of Representatives since 1990, died from cancer today in Norton's Hospital, Louisville.

"This is a sad day for state government in Indiana," said House Democrat Leader B. Patrick Bauer from South Bend. "We have lost a man who defined the role of public servant, a man who devoted much of his life to the idea that answering the needs of others was a noble calling. Our heart goes out to his family at this time of loss."

Since coming to the House, Bottorff has made his name by helping enact policies that have benefitted people across Indiana: expansion of the state's home health care program, more funding for schoolchildren, expanded economic development opportunities and greater tax relief for Hoosiers.

Bottorff led the way in efforts to remove the unfair burdens placed on residents of Clark and Floyd Counties by federally-mandated vehicle emissions testing. Among his many accomplishments as a lawmaker are laws that protect consumers from telephone company abuses, help to preserve and develop floodways and wetlands, and improve training for professional and volunteer firefighters.

"Jim Bottorff was a lawmaker who made it a priority to help the men and women who lived and worked in the 71<sup>st</sup> House District," Bauer said. "Many of the projects he championed drew great attention, such as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, improvements to Interstate 65 in southern Indiana, and efforts to build new bridges on the Ohio River between Indiana and Kentucky.

"But he was just as dedicated to getting the funding that helped the people of Utica get a new town hall, or enabled communities like Jeffersonville and Clarksville improve streets and bridges, or allowed local police and fire departments to get the equipment they needed to do their jobs a little better," he added. "It is safe to say that Jim Bottorff always delivered in the clutch when his constituents needed him the most.

"Above all, I will remember Jim Bottorff for his great sense of humor and easygoing manner," Bauer said. "I could always count on Jim to provide a joke or a few words of wisdom that helped cut through any mess at the Legislature. He was the kind of legislator who understood the system and knew how to make it work for the people of Indiana. His career was a model for others to follow."

Bottorff was born in Jeffersonville and lived there most of his life. Away from the Statehouse, he worked as a real estate appraiser.

Bottorff is survived by his wife Carlene, and two sons, Christopher and Robert.

Prior to serving in the Indiana House, Bottorff was Clark County Treasurer from 1979 to 1986 and Clark County Assessor from 1987 to 1990.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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